

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-229

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Marshall Grassland Restoration

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 2, hunt unit 5BN

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Flagstaff

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[x] **NO**[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**[x] **NO**[]

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**[] **NO**[X]→ **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Grassland Restoration

Brief Project Summary: Many of the Coconino National Forests historic meadows and grasslands have been slowly filled in by encroachment of trees since the advent of post settlement fire suppression and grazing. This project seeks to restore the Anderson Mesa grasslands to their historic range. Subsequent reintroduction of low intensity fire will help to maintain the grasslands in the future.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: May 2015

Project End Date: September 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: **Yes**[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[X] **No**[] **N/A**[]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**[]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$17,600

\$ 0

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

Total Project Costs:

\$17,600

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Andy Stevenson

Address:

Flagstaff Ranger District

4273 S Lake Mary Road

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

E-mail:

astevenson@fs.fed.us

Telephone: 928-527-8239

Date: 9/02/14

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Steve Rosenstock, 928-214-1253

Project has been coordinated with: Steve Rosenstock

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS: Many of the Coconino National Forests historic meadows and grasslands have been slowly filled in by encroachment of trees since the advent of post settlement fire suppression and grazing. This project seeks to restore the Anderson Mesa grasslands to their historic range. Subsequent reintroduction of low intensity fire will help to maintain the grasslands in the future.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: To cut and remove conifers that have encroached into historic grasslands on the north end of Anderson Mesa

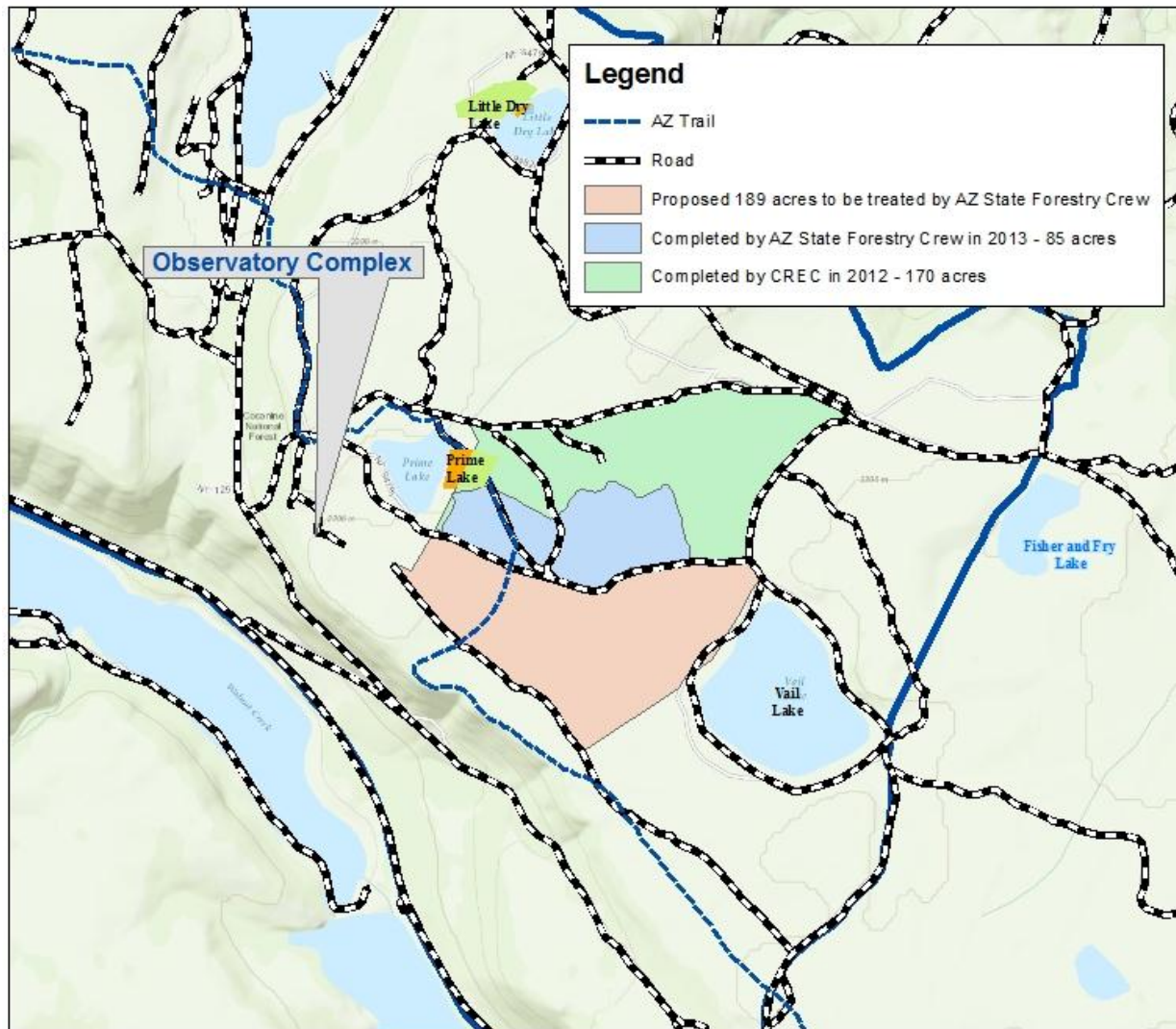
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES: The Marshall Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Project identified a need to restore 3,590 acres of grasslands within the project area which have been experiencing encroachment of junipers and pine. In 2012 the Flagstaff District received RAC funding to treat 170 acres, and again in 2013 to treat 85 acres. The district is proposing to treat 189 acres. Treatments would consist of removing young and mid-aged junipers and ponderosa pines. Trees would be left in area where they have existed historically within the grasslands. Trees would be lopped and scattered to a maximum 2 foot height. No Gambel oaks or Utah serviceberry would be cut. The wood left is available for fuel-wood cutters to remove. The propose areas of treatment are adjacent to the area already treated and is located in-between Vail and Prime lakes.

Below are some examples of the completed work:





Completed and Proposed Anderson Mesa Grassland Restoration Treatments



PROJECT LOCATION: North end of Anderson Mesa

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S): Coconino National Forest

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

•

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: High Elevation Mountain Meadows and Grasslands

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

AZ State Forestry Crew	\$4,000.00/week x 4 week =	\$ 16,000.00
Planning/Overhead	\$1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Materials/Supplies	\$100.00	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total:		\$17,600.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION: AZ State Forestry Department – Forestry Crew.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?
YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

The district silviculturist will be involved with the implementation of the project and will ensure that all planned work is completed.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The district fuels crew will evaluate any piled or lopped slash for burning treatment. Any pile burning will take place within two years of completion.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Andy Stevenson, Flagstaff RD Silviculturist.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Marshall Grassland Restoration

- 1) **What is the estimated acreage of the project?** 189 acres.
- 2) **How are the trees going to be cleared? (agra axe, chain saw, grubbing, push, chaining):**
Hand felled with chainsaws
- 3) **What is the estimated number of trees per acre?** Range from 0 to 100.
- 4) **Describe trees to be cleared (species, estimated diameter, single stem, multi-stem):** Post settlement conifers (Pondrosa pine and junipers) from 1 foot to 24" dbh
- 5) **Describe terrain (slope, soil type, rocks):** Flat and sometimes rocky grasslands.
- 6) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (e.g. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.:** All grasslands are on NF land and outside of Wilderness Areas.
- 7) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☐ 2x4 vehicles ☒ 4x4 only ☐ Foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approx. hiking time:

Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[] NO[x]

Is the site relatively accessible for tree removal equipment? YES[x] NO[]

Please describe any restrictions to public access: None